

22 July 2024

18th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport

Porto, Portugal

8-10 October 2024

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Introduction

On the occasion of the Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport 2024, in Portugal, which seeks to integrate a youth perspective, concrete steps have been taken to offer space and opportunities to benefit from the experiences and expertise of young people when considering the implementation of the European Sports Charter.

With the Reykjavik Declaration, adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government (16-17 May 2023), the Council of Europe underscores the importance of integrating a youth perspective across the Council of Europe's activities. This declaration is a milestone, guiding us toward a future where young people's voices are not only heard but are instrumental in shaping our policies and practices. The Council of Europe has shown a steadfast commitment to developing international standards that promote working with and for young people by adding the integration of a youth perspective in the Organisation's intergovernmental and other deliberations, as well as strengthening further youth participation in decision-making in democratic life.

Understanding the well-established relevance and contribution of meaningful youth participation in policymaking, this initiative seeks to contribute to integrating a youth perspective and to raise awareness of policymakers on the importance of cooperating with young people in all matters that concern them.

This initiative builds on previous achievements, namely:

- [The European Sports Charter;](#)
- [The Council of Europe Youth Strategy;](#)
- [The Council of Europe co-management system;](#)
- [The Reykjavik Declaration;](#)
- [The Guidelines on young people's participation - YOUTH PARTICIPATION 2.0;](#)
- [The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life.](#)

About the Initiative

The initiative seeks to integrate a youth perspective in sport policies. More specifically, the initiative aims to:

- Introduce and expand the participants' knowledge on sport policies in the context of the Council of Europe, of the topics of the Conference, as well as of key initiatives in the field; and
- Provide a capacity-building opportunity for young people to learn about how to better engage with and participate in sport policymaking, on advocating for youth and sport policies, on the existing instruments and tools developed by the Council of Europe, and on how to use them in their contexts.

The implementation of this Initiative intends to produce concrete and tangible outcomes, namely:

- Provide a space for young people and policymakers to directly engage with each other in a meaningful and free manner, under the umbrella of the topics of the conference.
- Provide an opportunity for discussion, reflection, and collaboration towards supporting the participants in presenting their views and ideas. This will be done through a process of collection of feedback, inputs, views and suggestions after the event, which will be compiled, processed and shall be shared with the EPAS Members after the conference.
- Organisation of an interactive session between the youth representatives and other Conference participants.

Participation

Participant Profile

- Participation of 50 participants, aged 18 to 25 years, is sought.
- Participants shall be designated on a voluntary basis by each Member State delegation and organisations which are members of the Consultative Committee of EPAS and will be considered as members of their nominating delegation (one additional youth quota per delegation).
- Participants shall, preferably, have prior experience and engagement in sport, or a general understanding of the sport sector.

National participants will also be selected towards achieving a greatest impact on the national level.

Participation Condition

- Accommodation and meals during the Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport 2024, will be provided by the Portuguese authorities.
- Transportation between various locations included in the conference programme, as well as roundtrip airport transfers, will be arranged and covered by the Portuguese authorities;
- Travel costs from and to the participants' home locations to the arrival airport, in Portugal, must be covered by the respective delegations.

Expressions of Interest

Delegations are asked to express their interest in designating a youth delegate to the conference, under the conditions presented in these terms of reference, to sportministerial2024@ipdj.pt, no later than the 3rd of September.

Activities

Programme Overview

The initiative will comprise three general moments of involvement of the participants, with varying degrees of engagement: 1) Online activities before the Conference; 2) Participation in the Conference Programme; 3) Post-Conference consultation and debriefing sessions.

1) Online Activities

Before the start of the Conference of Ministers, young delegates will be invited to take part in online sessions (specific dates to be confirmed).

These sessions will provide the delegates with key information to improve their participation experience covering, among others, the following topics:

- The work of the Council of Europe / EPAS in sport.
- Topics of the Conference.
- Dynamics of the present Youth Initiative.

2) Conference Time

During the Conference, youth delegates will be able to attend the full programme of the conference.

Specific briefing, debriefing, and working sessions will also take place towards providing reflection, learning and dialogue opportunities.

A specific panel debate dedicated to youth participation and involvement in sport will take place during the plenary session of the Conference.

3) After the Conference

Additional consultation and debriefing sessions will take place online after the Conference with a view of collecting the delegates feedback and perspectives.

The information collected, along with any other inputs received shall be compiled in the form of a short report, which will be circulated to all delegations for their information.

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